

Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee
Meeting Agenda

February 14, 2013 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30 PM

Attending: Sue Morrello, John Root, Laurel Dickey, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Brenda Davies, Craig Goff (almost-member of the committee), Susan Waite, Arnie Alper, Cam Weimar (Amend Organics).

Unanimous approval of January 2013 minutes as edited.

Compost proposal presentation: Amend Organics

Cam Weimar's company was formed in fall 2012 with a goal to provide a high-quality end product (compost). He feels that a local composter completes the local food systems loop. Seattle, Portland, OR, and San Francisco all have mandatory organics collections. In 2014 Massachusetts' food waste ban/ food waste diversion law (affects those who produce 1 ton + per week of food waste – institutional) will go into affect. Connecticut and Vermont also have similar laws. Amend Organics is proposing a pilot program with a dedicated food waste drop-off location at the transfer station consisting of wheeled totes that will be removed at the end of each day the transfer station is open. Biodegradable pay-as-you-throw bags would be provided for participants. He proposed that they be sold at the transfer station, which will receive compensation for allowing use of property and sale of bags. A motion was passed unanimously to support the proposal by Amend Organics for a six-month pilot program at the transfer station.

Approve Landfill Alt Subcommittee Report

Susan made one edit in the Executive Summary section. Also deleted reference to an appendix. A motion to accept the report as edited to forward to Guilford Mooring was passed unanimously.

Review zero waste proclamation & craft plan

Some editing was done and Susan will take the draft to Guilford Mooring and Aaron Hayden for further input.

Event planning: Sustainability Festival

It will be held April 27, 2013, the Saturday following the last Saturday of school vacation (a change from previous years). Over 60 vendors have already committed to participate, and there will be live demonstrations & music. Motion passed unanimously to hold a textile collection again. The Committee will have a booth, as well.

New business

- Drug collection – New permanent prescription, non-prescription & veterinary drug disposal inside the Amherst police station. Supported by the District Attorney's office.
- New Amherst Toy Library – Located at the Bang's Center Wednesday – Friday. Accepting donations (no cloth toys) – drop off at the Bang's Center.

- Grow Food Amherst is developing a Tool Library.
- UMass and Amherst College have both implemented single stream recycling. New MRFs are being built to accommodate single (not dual) stream. Big commercial haulers may be driving this movement.